

THE

# Metropolitan,

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DEVOTED TO

Religion, Education, Literature,

AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

Edited by a Committee of Literary Gentlemen.

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## TO OUR PATRONS.

FIVE YEARS have now elapsed since the METROPOLITAN was undertaken, and for the last three years, we have had the pleasure of directing its editorial department. During this period, we have exerted our humble abilities to realize the object for which the work was designed. We have labored to render it not only a periodical devoted to the interest of Catholicity, but a periodical of general literature, upon a thorough Catholic basis.

We have from time to time directed attention to the importance of disseminating sound and healthful literature, the necessity of which was never more apparent than at present. A flood of the most fulsome and pernicious literature is daily poured upon the country:—a literature in which vice is veiled beneath an attractive style, and in which crime is encouraged by the heroes of the tale. The influences which these publications have produced upon the mind of youth, need not be told. Their doleful effects may be read in the history of the past; nay even in the daily experience of every observant individual. Almost unconsciously a whole community becomes familiarized with themes from which its members were once accustomed to turn with horror. The barrier which guards the morality of a people being thus broken down, the progress to crime, open and undisguised, becomes inevitably certain.

Such being the tendency of the vast amount of the current literature of the day, it becomes the duty of every one desirous of upholding the moral integrity of the community, and the most vital interests of religion, to aid in disseminating moral and healthful reading among the people, as one of the most effectual antidotes to the prevailing evil. How far the Metropolitan has been the medium of conveying to the people those lessons which tend to the development of morality and virtue, we leave to a discriminating public to determine. We have the satisfaction of knowing, that the work has merited the approbation of those whose judgment is worthy of the highest respect. To the friends and patrons of the work, to those who have so ably contributed to its pages, and to all who have in any manner aided in its circulation, we tender our most cordial thanks.

With this volume the united labors of the Editorial Committee will cease, and in future these labors will devolve on one of their number, who for the last three years has attended principally to the editorial duties. When we add that his undivided attention will be confined to the work, we feel that it is a sufficient guarantee, that the Magazine will merit a continuance of the confidence and liberal support it has heretofore enjoyed.

ED. COM.



## CONTENTS OF VOLUME V.

*Articles marked thus (\*) are illustrated.*

|  | PAGE     |
|--|----------|
| *Abbey of St. Albans.....                                    | 41       |
| American Catholics and Catholic Ireland.....                 | 73       |
| Allocution of His Holiness, Pope Pius IX.....                | 684      |
| Brothers of the Christian Schools.....                       | 357      |
| *Cathedral Mosque of Cordova.....                            | 97, 160  |
| *Chapter from the Life of Sister Rosalie.....                | 480, 530 |
| Convoy, the—An Incident in the Spanish Peninsular War.....   | 603      |
| *Cathedral of Downpatrick.....                               | 608      |
| Cathedral of Amiens.....                                     | 610      |
| Catholic Element in the History of the United States.....    | 393, 521 |
| Christian Festivals—the Circumcision.....                    | 738      |
| Cahill, Rev. D. W., D. D.....                                | 673      |
| Chapter for the Young.....                                   | 374, 567 |
| Dr. Brownson and the Supreme Court of the United States..... | 210      |
| Death and Sleep.....   | 602      |
| *Drogheda.....   | 663      |

EDITORS' TABLE:      66, 127, 190, 255, 317, 381, 447, 510, 573, 636, 700, 755

### *Principal Items:*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Donation of Mr. Peabody.....  | 127 |
| The Fourth of March.....  | 190 |
| A Mediæval Curiosity.....   | 190 |
| Review of Lizzie Maitland.....                                      | 255 |
| Dr. Brownson's Lecture.....   | 318 |
| The Washington Riots.....   | 381 |
| Our Literary Institutions.....                                      | 449 |
| Santa Clara College— <i>Catholic Teaching</i> .....                 | 511 |
| November.....   | 637 |
| Christmas Day.....  | 700 |
| The Governor of Maryland and his Catholic Critics.....              | 701 |
| The New Year.....   | 756 |
| Eastern Hospitals and English Nurses.....                           | 411 |
| Early Irish Catholics in the West Indies.....                       | 548 |
| English Colleges of Douay and Rome.....                             | 594 |
| English Catholic Versions of the Bible.....                         | 713 |
| Father Peter Martinez, the first Apostle and Martyr of Florida..... | 166 |
| Festival of Ancient Rome.....                                       | 286 |
| Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul.....                                | 352 |

|  | PAGE                                   |
|--|--|
| Fasts and Festivals of the Church.....   | 585                                    |
| *Greece.....   | 545                                    |
| *Hassan Abdallah; or, the Enchanted Keys.....                                      | 674, 728                               |
| Ireland at Rome.....   | 89                                     |
| " Her Early History as seen by her Saints.....                                     | 146                                    |
| INTELLIGENCE, LITERARY...64, 126, 188, 253, 315, 375, 446, 506, 571, 634, 698, 754 |  |
| " DOMESTIC...71, 136, 197, 255, 327, 390, 455, 518, 582, 644, 710, 767             |  |
| Principal Items:   |  |
| Religious Receptions.....72, 136, 197, 198, 263, 328, 390, 455, 518, 520,          | 584, 644, 710, 712, 767, 768           |
| Ordinations...71, 264, 327, 328, 390, 391, 456, 518, 583, 644, 648, 710, 768       |  |
| Confirmations.....71, 198, 263, 264, 327, 328, 390, 391, 456, 518, 519,            | 582, 583, 644, 647, 710, 711, 712, 767 |
| Church Dedications.....72, 455, 456, 518, 519, 582, 583, 584, 644, 648,            | 710, 712, 767                          |
| Consecration of the Right Rev. Bishops Elder, Wood, and Junker 327                 |  |
| " " " " Bishop Duggan.....   | 391                                    |
| " " " " Bishop Barry.....  | 518                                    |
| Welcome to Bishop O'Connor.....  | 645                                    |
| Tribute to the Memory of Father Conway.....  | 647                                    |
| INTELLIGENCE, FOREIGN...68, 130, 194, 260, 320, 385, 451, 518, 573, 638, 705, 761  |  |
| Principal Items:   |  |
| Encyclical Letter against the Abuses of Magnetism.....                             | 130                                    |
| The Feast of the Sacred Heart.....   | 131                                    |
| Decree of the Cardinal Vicar.....  | 131                                    |
| Assassination of the Archbishop of Paris.....                                      | 132                                    |
| Funeral of the Archbishop.....   | 133                                    |
| The Martyrdom of a Priest in Oceanica.....   | 135                                    |
| Progress of Catholicity in India.....  | 135                                    |
| The Attempted Assassination of the Archbishop of Matera.....                       | 195                                    |
| Execution of Verger, the Assassin of the Archbishop of Paris.....                  | 195                                    |
| The Irish Catholic University.....   | 196                                    |
| Celebration of Holy Week in Rome.....  | 320                                    |
| Cardinal Morlot installed Archbishop of Paris.....                                 | 322                                    |
| An Extraordinary Trial.....  | 324                                    |
| The Progress of the Holy Father.....   | 385, 451, 513, 576                     |
| Concordat between Rome and Naples.....   | 386                                    |
| The O'Connell Statue.....  | 454                                    |
| Death of Beranger.....   | 515                                    |
| Russia and the Holy See.....   | 517                                    |
| The Louvre.....  | 577                                    |
| The Inauguration of the O'Connell Statue.....                                      | 579                                    |
| The Visit of the Emperor of Austria to Hungary.....                                | 580                                    |
| The Return of the Holy Father to Rome.....   | 638                                    |
| The Suppression of a Monastery in Sardinia.....                                    | 639                                    |
| Concordat with the Kingdom of Wirtemberg.....                                      | 642                                    |
| A Curious Discovery.....   | 707                                    |
| The Fate of the American Steamer Pacific.....                                      | 708                                    |

# Contents.

vii

|                            | PAGE          |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| INTELLIGENCE, SECULAR..... | 199, 392, 456 |

## Principal Items:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Adjournment of Congress and the Inauguration of President Buchanan..... | 199 |
| Death of Dr. Kane.....  | 200 |
| Death of General Walbach.....   | 392 |
| Death of Hon. Wm. L. Marcy.....   | 456 |
| Legend of the Physician of Kozma.....                                   | 423 |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| MEMOIRS.—*Most Rev. Archbishop Neale.....          | 18, 81 |
| *Monseigneur Sibour, late Archbishop of Paris..... | 152    |
| *Rev. James Balmes.....                            | 201    |
| Rev. Charles Nerinckx.....                         | 329    |
| *Mary, Queen of Scots.....                         | 393    |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| MISCELLANEA..... | 54, 116, 182, 244, 304, 369, 437, 498, 560, 624, 689, 747 |
|------------------|---|

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| No Popery..... | 272 |
|----------------|-----|

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| OUR CONVENTS.—No. XI.—Sisters of St. Joseph.....            | 103 |
| No. XII.—Ladies of the Sacred Heart.....                    | 222 |
| No. XIII.—Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis.....    | 420 |
| No. XIV.—Sisters of Notre Dame.....                         | 590 |
| No. XVI.—Grey Nuns; or, Sisters of Charity of Montreal..... | 721 |

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Obituary.....                       | 136, 198, 264, 391, 456, 520, 584, 648, 712, 768 |
| *Parables of Christ.....            | 94   |
| Prayer Books.....                   | 217  |
| *Ruin of Empires.....               | 281  |
| Reminiscences of South America..... | 649  |

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| REVIEW OF CURRENT LITERATURE..... | 58, 122, 185, 249, 311, 375, 441, 505, 568, 633, 697, 753 |
|-----------------------------------|---|

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Sismondi and Catholic Morality.....  | 25                                     |
| Silva, or the Triumph of Virtue..... | 172, 238, 295, 362, 427, 487, 552, 618 |
| *Scenes in the Life of Columbus..... | 363, 472                               |
| Sketches of Heroic Women.—No. I..... | 464                                    |
| “ “ “ No. II.....                    | 658                                    |

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| *Story of Lin-in. A Chinese Tale.....                             | 537, 596 |
| Sketch of Torquato Tasso.....                                     | 734      |
| Thoughts and Suggestions on the Catholic Question in America..... | 9, 138   |
| The Waterford Crusaders; or, The Brave Irish Landlord.            |          |

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| By Wm. Bernard MacCabe.....   | 48, 108                          |
| *The Curse of Sacrilege.....  | 228                              |
| The Irish in England.....   | 230                              |
| Transition and Progress.....  | 471                              |
| The Village Ruin.....   | 741                              |
| Travels of Madame Le Vert.....  | 724                              |
| The Church.....   | 719                              |
| United States Astronomical Expedition to the Southern Hemisphere..... | 35                               |
| Writings of the Rev. F. W. Faber, D. D.....                           | 266                              |
| Words and Thoughts.....   | 52, 114, 179, 216, 293, 486, 543 |

336

## POETRY.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| The Child and the Star.....             | 17  |
| The Exile's Prayer.....                 | 35  |
| Visit to the Blessed Sacrament.....     | 67  |
| Ode to Washington's Birth-day.....      | 67  |
| Beauty and Faith.....                   | 88  |
| Life .....                              | 96  |
| Green Erin.....                         | 128 |
| Truth and Reason.....                   | 159 |
| Farewell.....                           | 165 |
| Harp of the Fallen.....                 | 171 |
| Day.....                                | 193 |
| Night.....                              | 210 |
| Fleeing to God.....                     | 285 |
| Adieu.....                              | 286 |
| Infants Asleep.....                     | 303 |
| La Fayette.....                         | 317 |
| The Evening Hearth-Stone.....           | 351 |
| Hope On.....                            | 356 |
| Farewell to St. Joseph's.....           | 382 |
| The Martyr Spirit.....                  | 447 |
| The Brandywine.....                     | 448 |
| The Last of the Hours.....              | 485 |
| To My Birth-day.....                    | 510 |
| Home Without a Mother.....              | 536 |
| Time Grows not Old.....                 | 547 |
| Stray Thoughts.....                     | 559 |
| Cheer and Encouragement.....            | 607 |
| Angels.....                             | 624 |
| Sonnet to Idleness.....                 | 637 |
| The Nun.....                            | 663 |
| Beautiful is Life, but Fleeting.....    | 673 |
| The Prodigal's Address to his Home..... | 682 |
| The Happy Home.....                     | 688 |
| The Song of the Christmas Chime.....    | 700 |
| The Seasons.....                        | 727 |
| Live for Something.....                 | 740 |
| A Gentle Word.....                      | 746 |
| The Battle of New Orleans.....          | 757 |



17  
35  
67  
67  
88  
96  
128  
159  
165  
171  
193  
210  
285  
286  
303  
317  
351  
356  
382  
447  
448  
485  
510  
536  
547  
559  
607  
624  
637  
663  
673  
682  
688  
700  
727  
740  
746  
757